

Valley Bees February Meeting

Honey Bee Farm Stay, Feb 9, 2020

Meeting opened 1-30pm, chaired by Erin, Sara took Minutes

New people: Greg: Interested in bees, knows Tom Codd. Will get a hive from Tom and wants to learn more about bees. Coming out to Landcare workshops and attended the Bio Security workshop.

Apologies

Apologies received from Glenbo, Athol and Skaidra, Tom
Declared that Minutes true and correct, moved by Sara , 2nd Pauline, Carried .

Business arising from previous meeting

Corrections to minutes: Robin's talk on native bee holes. Uses 5mm and 8mm. Only uses the 3mm for the Halictids, the small native solitary bees.

Donation for bush fires: Still open for discussion.

Brian moved that \$1,000 be donated, Sara 2nd and passed by membership.

Discussed that Hive Aid was mostly for commercial Beekeepers. WHEEN BEE Foundation: long term research related to bush fires. Recovery fund. Research as to how bush fires affect the bee population.

Go-Fund-Me page in NSW to produce boxes for professional beekeepers. He has 100 hives that he will split and give to bee keepers who have lost their hives. They are after \$3,000.

Motion by Mark to give the \$1,000 to QBA Jo Marta secretary of QBA to distribute in full to bushfire recovery beekeepers. Brian 2nd. Passed by members.

Maree will facilitate. Pauline will talk to Jo and let Maree know how to proceed.

The "bee cut-out" that was accidently taken from Honey Bee Far will be replaced here at Honey Bee Farm per request by Alan Rainbow as it belongs to him and not VB.

Bill: on Hive rescue on Noosa Road: Noosa Road water meter hive seems to be going along fine. The one that was rescued from the Telstra box did not survive – its gone. Bill will donate a hive for the raffle if we don't find another rescue to raffle on the Bee Open Day. Reg will take box back from the hive that did not survive.

Erin moved that Minutes from January meeting be passed as correct. Maree 2nd passed by membership.

Correspondence:

IN: Landcare letter recommendation for grant that we are going for.

Landcare requested VB to do a talk at Landcare on the 20th of May.

OUT: Bendigo bank:

Show society: Still trying to reach Show Society regarding Gympie Show.

Kayle: A lot of changes have taken place and all requests should go through him.

We will give Kayle the \$30. for Gympie Show.

Gympie Regional Council: They will invoice MRCCC to give them the deposit for our Open Day.

Erin moved correspondence be accepted. Vic 2nd Passed.

Native Bee Workshop: Held this morning. Great discussion good group. Thank you Derek for organizing.

Bee Biosecurity Talk

Held on last Saturday, with new Bee Biosecurity Officer for Queensland Rebecca Laws.

Interesting presentation, a lot learnt. Chose a box from Flow-hive and found chalk brood when looking for Queen. Great information on the day.

Vic: One of the factors in keeping your hive healthy is having a healthy queen. Humidity is one of the biggest factors in chalk brood.

Erin and Robin suggested that we request she come to the Bee Open Day to give a presentation and provide information on the day.

Kayle: BBO - what authority will they have? Trying to get information for new fact sheets and educational. She will speak at Wide Bay QBA meeting and in Gympie as well.

Greg asked if we have slides from her presentation? Erin will try to send through email. It is very slow because of the size.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report available, attached to the end of these Minutes.

\$8,329.32 balance.

Sara moved the report be accepted, Kayle 2nd, Passed by membership

Report - Workshop Session Landcare - Vic

Biosecurity Manual was left for us from Rebecca laws. She demonstrated how to find mites in hive with icing mixture.

Landcare last week. Good roll up, 25 to 30 people. Discussion to start meeting about current conditions. Il having same experience lots of pollen and not too much nectar. Went to hives. Checked nuc. Noticed virgin queen the day before but couldn't find her at the workshop. Other hives are good. Good reserves of nectar. Found a couple of frames to extract. People enjoyed the honey to take home.

The middle double on one hive found the queen. Seems the worker bees transfer eggs into a queen cell if they need to. Watching to see what happens. Always seem to get 4 to 6 new people and they are really good at stimulating conversation. Had a good morning.

Brian commented on how the bees always teach us something

Report - Workshop Honeybee Session and Flow Hives – VIC (for Mark)

Raining on the morning and didn't know if they could open any hives. Had good discussion about the NuPlas Hives. Talked about solar wax melting. When the rain stopped they went down to check hives. 2 nucs: Put our nuc in NuPlas hive and Alan and Michele's nuc into the 8 frame flow hive. We are up to full strength on hives here at this time.

Had one new member. Other club members were busy clearing the meeting room of poster boards and cleaning up the Honey Room. Cleaned up all the bee areas around the Honey Bee Farmstay. Had a beautiful morning.

Report on Flow Hives by Vic: No honey in the flow hives at the moment.

Native Bee Morning - 2nd Sunday in February by Robin: This morning we held a show and tell of different box designs, swap and discuss different ideas and techniques. In particular, we looked at the concept of having the honey chamber at the very bottom of the hive. About 20 people attended. We had lot of different boxes to see and talk about. Talked about depth of wood for insulation. Noticed lots of different roofs, talked about how to insulation. Discussion about how hot the hives might get with different roofs. Peter demonstrated a mock of how to split of hive. Talked about how to feed the split hives with small plastic containers of honey. New people were interested in the bee wall and what plants the bees are attracted to. Should have plants flowering all year round to have healthy hives.

Report - Top Bar Hives - Scott

Building one for club, going slow but coming along. Building the hive at the Men's Shed and hopes to have it completed by next meeting. Not much news on his personal hives.

General business

Erin discussed. Landcare 22nd of Feb. Sat morning. Bees and pollinators. Robin is happy to talk about native bee hotels. Glenbo will approach Chris Fuller to do information on native bees. Introduction to bees and beekeeping. Glenbo is organizing. Landcare will provide food. We just have to be there at 9am to set up and do presentations. Erin will ask Landcare to help pay for Chris Fuller.

Landcare is also doing a morning workshop on Pollinators. Wed morning 20th May. Microbats will also be talked about. Gympie naturalists are also doing a talk. We will be responsible for about one hour of talk on the day. Need to get back to them about what we will do and who will do the talk.

Erin: Bendigo Bank grants. Will talk with them Wednesday next week. Can apply up to \$500 with no sponsorship material needed. If we go up to \$1,000 or \$2000 our literature etc. must have Bendigo Bank logo. Erin suggested the club purchase gazebos, flags or signage etc. to use for workshops and open day. Also we need money to hire speakers and equipment. Discussion on use of equipment at showground and other expenses incurred. Erin will work on the application to Bendigo Bank keeping in mind necessary funds needed for speakers and accommodation. Robin feels that advertising is also very important. We are now going into a large hall and stall holders need to get their profit from the day.

Bruce motioned to apply to Bendigo Bank Grants for up to \$2000. Robin 2nd Passed by members.

Discussion was held in regards to the raffle on the Bee Open Day and how we hold it. Stall holders will need to donate items for the raffle.

1. Stall holders will donate something and put it on their stall and people will put tickets into each box at each stall. We will then go to each table to draw raffle.
2. Have one box with all tickets into it and raffle items are given out as each ticket is drawn until all items are taken.
3. Keep the raffle as we have had in the past.

Discussion of different ways to do the raffle. To be continued next meeting.

Robin noted that she would rather use club money for experiences instead of things. Do we need to purchase a gazebo or can we borrow when we need?

Discussed what costs the Open Day will be. Gympie Regional Council has given grant of \$2,500. \$1200 for use of pavilion. Ads \$550? Other costs previously discussed.

Kayle: Asked for 2x 500ml bottles of honey for the show. \$1 entry. Please enter your honey in if you can. Anyone who wants to volunteer at the QBA stall let Kayle know. Have entries in by 6pm Tuesday before the show on the 14, 15 and 16th May.

Sara talked about getting a group together for a trip to the Amrita Park Meadery in Cooran. They have a wonderful set-up and are 2nd or 3rd generation Mead Makers. They will put on finger foods for us for a tasting of approx. 7 or more people. We will talk about price and dates etc next month.

Mark is getting an order together for NuPlas hives. See him.

Erin will not be here for next meeting. Will get someone else to chair meeting.

Maree won the raffle.

Meeting closed 3:10pm